

Town of Montville
Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Brian Baker, Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Rachael Novak, and Kate Southard. Absent was Councilor Nicholas Sabilia. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

- a. Presentation regarding the Seven Summits on the Town Hall infrastructure project
Mayor Bunnell provided a brief background of the Town Hall infrastructure project for which they are hoping to obtain funding through the Community Investment Fund Capital Grant Round Nine. The project also includes the initial phases of the Town's proposed Revive and Renew Routes 163/32 Revival Plan. He introduced Architect Scott Mitchell, Friar Architecture, Inc., and Clovis Jones, 7 Summits Construction Company, who provided a brief presentation and overview of the Town Hall infrastructure project.

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) Capital Grant Round Five identified the primary challenge to the Town's economic sustainability as the lack of a community identity and center. The CIF Capital Grant Round Nine would help fund the project's initial phases by establishing a walkable 'main street' core, fostering a supportive environment for small businesses and community identity by developing a Town Green and stabilizing the historic Town Hall infrastructure, which would act as the anchor of the Town's center. The Town Hall infrastructure improvements include the conversion from oil heating to natural gas, boiler replacement, ductwork and HVAC improvements, the Town Council fire escape replacement, repairing masonry cracks and repointing of brick, and roof replacement.

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2026-37. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell to make application for the Community Investment Fund Capital Grant Round Nine, in the amount of \$16,168,961 (sixteen million one hundred sixty-eight thousand nine hundred sixty-one dollars) to fund the Project, Reviving Montville's Town Center: Renewing a Community's Core at Routes 163 & 32. This Project includes implementing recommendations of the CIF Round 5 Revive and Renew Routes 163 and 32 by creating the first phases of a Town Green, RT 32 Streetscape, prepare Preliminary Design Plans to address RT 32/163/Maple Ave/Depot Road intersection deficiencies and comprehensive Town Hall infrastructure improvements, which includes but is not limited to boiler replacement and HVAC upgrades addressing a failing boiler and air quality issues. This includes the use of \$288,000 (two hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars) appropriated under Resolution 2025-84, for boiler replacements to be applied to this Project. (Mayor Bunnell)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: It was confirmed that the resolution includes the Town's allocation of \$288,000.00; the CIF Capital Grant Round Nine application will include the remaining amount of \$16,168,961.00. The Grant Deadline is June 6, 2026. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor.

Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Novak, Southard, and May.
 Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

b. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget.

Whereas, the Mayor has presented the budget to the Town Council; and

Whereas, the Board of Education has presented a budget to the Town Council; and

Whereas, the Town Council has caused to be published in a newspaper having circulation in the Town, a Notice of Public Hearings and a summary of the proposed budget estimates; and

Whereas, the Town Council held Public Hearings of the Board of Education proposed budget on April 29, 2026, and the General Government proposed budget on April 30, 2026, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Charter of the Town of Montville.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the following budget on the estimated cost of current expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027, to be adopted as follows:

General Government	\$ 25,385,447.00
Board of Education	\$ 48,504,616.00
Debt Service	\$ 4,077,624.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 914,566.00
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	\$ 78,882,253.00

c. Resolution #2026-38. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to amend the budget line-item by line-item.

10100.46045	Pequot funds	2,090,413
10100.45000	ECS	512,114
10100.48023	Tipping fees	90,000
10100.45020	Adult Education	5,590
10480.52164	Contingency	850,000
10940.52124	Tipping Fees	222,000
10880.51100	Fire Overtime	100,000
10950.53051	Board of Education	150,000
10960.52043	Capital Non Recurring	125,000
10820.51100	Police Overtime	100,000
10340.52046	Legal	50,000
10870.53029	Dispatch Maint	4,000
10820.52183	K9 expense	1,000
10940.53015	SW uniforms	500
10830.53025	FM Inspection supplies	(2,100)
10870.51100	Dispatch OT	(10,000)
10960.54006	Police car	(83,750)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: Chairman May clarified that Line Item 10960-54006, Police Car, is being funded through a different line item (Line Item 10100-49005, Police Reimb. Private Duty), and Line Items 10830-53025, FM Inspection Supplies, and 10870-51100, Dispatch OT, are being eliminated. Roll Call vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, Novak, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Caron. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2026-39. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the Town's five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, Novak, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Caron. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2026-40. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the mil rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year at 31.43 mils using a collection rate of 99.76%.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, Novak, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Caron. Resolution passed.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Superintendent of Schools Dianne Vumback thanked the Councilors for passing the budget.

Carol Burgess, 28 New Hampshire Lane, Oakdale, also thanked the Councilors and commended the members of the Finance Committee and Town Council for their hard work in preparing a responsible budget for the Town of Montville. As a taxpayer and Chairperson of the Board of Education, she expressed her personal appreciation of their efforts.

7. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor Bunnell stated that the budget was very difficult due to the necessary increases. He thanked Finance Director Julie Chapman for her hard work and the Board of Education for their efforts. While they were able to maintain a stable budget for the past four (4) years and did their best to avoid any increases, the rising cost of inflation, energy, and salaries resulted in the need to increase the mil rate.

Councilor Novak thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting. While understanding the financial difficulties associated with the mil rate increase of 2.56 mils, she stated that it was a necessary step to avoid cutting essential Town services that support the community's well-being. She stated the importance of investing in the Town's future, ensuring that they maintain the quality of life they value. She hopes to work together to find additional solutions for sustainable budgeting in the future. She thanked the Finance Director and Councilors for their hard work and for working together as a team.

Councilor Baker also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing their comments and concerns, stating that this was a challenging budget year. Without pointing fingers or making excuses, he stated that no one person or group is solely responsible for their predicament. The issue developed over many years, and they were confronted with the need to resolve those issues. The budget, as approved, reflects their true operating costs and should place Town back on track. As a taxpayer and senior citizen, he is opposed to a tax increase, but in order to maintain their current level of service, a tax increase was necessary to accommodate the rising costs. He thanked the Finance Director for her hard work and guidance and the Councilors for their input. He respectfully requested the citizens' support so that they could move forward together, making the town stronger.

Councilor Caron also thanked and commended the Finance Director, Board of Education, and Councilors for their hard work. He was pleased to see the involvement of the Councilors in the budget process and appreciated their efforts. He noted the residents' struggles with increases in fuel, food, and heating prices, citing the many who are residing in shelters or are homeless. He will continue to support the Mayor, the Councilors, and the Board of Education.

Councilor Jaskiewicz echoed his colleagues, thanking the Mayor, Finance Director, Board of Education, and Councilors for their hard work and efforts. He acknowledged the financial difficulties and hopes that, moving forward, they will be able to avoid such significant increases.

Councilor Southard thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and expressed her appreciation to the Finance Director and Superintendent of Schools for their hard work. She was pleased with the Finance Committee meetings during which all of the Councilors worked together, regardless of party affiliation, and made the difficult decisions for the Town of Montville. She was confident that all possible cuts were made to the budget, without sacrificing the town's services and functions. She also expressed her appreciation to the departments, which also made sacrifices. Inflation has hit our residents, the town, and schools, and this is the result. Everyone is appreciated for their hard work and for doing their best.

Chairman May stated that the budget was heavily affected by unfunded state mandates, costing nearly \$900,000.00, lack of adequate state funding, and previously approved funding. The approved budget includes assurances for future increases and needs. Looking forward into the future, he urged the Mayor and Board of Education to investigate additional reductions to accommodate the growing expenses.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville